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Here is a little of the true Western grit :

You smile; but Western life is earnest, real.
 We need a creed we can apply and feel ;
 Our rugged life
 Is a continuous war, a savage strife
 To grasp requirements for our daily needs.
 We find sparse time to jangle over creeds,
 And blest is he to whom one God remains ;
 Who from his soul can say "Jehovah reigns,"
 When he has wrenched away those early chains.

It would be easy to go on quoting from this charming little book, which, if not altogether poetic according to the conventional standard, is full of the spirit of poetry, lightened by a vein of quiet humor, and possessing the added grace of a simple fidelity to nature in the descriptive passages, which will at once commend it and give it permanent interest to those familiar with the scenes described.

IV.

SLAV OR SAXON.

THE average reader may be inclined to dissent from the general proposition of Mr. Foulke's new work* on Russia, viz., that a great struggle for supremacy is imminent between England and Russia, despite the positive opinion of so good an authority as Mr. Gladstone, which introduces the book. A careful consideration of the status of the European powers leads Mr. Foulke to the conclusion that only the two named have a future. An immense country, occupying one-sixth of the land on the earth's surface, with her possessions constantly increasing by conquest and colonization ; with such inexhaustible resources, agricultural and mineral, that, were every nation closed against her, she would be less conscious of loss than any country in the world ; with a hardy, patient, vigorous people trained to endurance, a territory so situated that maritime powers could scarcely reach her, and an army larger than any other in the world ; with a climate so severe that foreigners cannot long endure its rigors ; with a lack of populous centres, making a lasting conquest of the country almost impossible, Russia certainly presents a formidable front to any hostile nation.

The hundred millions of people to-day subject to the Czar consists of about eighty different races, speaking nearly all languages, and of many religions and pursuits. The native Russian is impelled by many circumstances of his nature and surroundings to emigrate. We quote from Rambaud : "The mountain keeps her own, the mountain calls her wanderer to return ; while the steppe, stretching away to the dimmest horizon, invited you to advance, to ride at a venture, to go where the eyes glance. The flat and monotonous soil has no hold on its inhabitants ; they will find as bare a landscape anywhere. As for their hovel, how can they care for that, it is burned down so often ?"

Mr. Foulke's conclusions concerning the military autocracy do not seem to us fully warranted by the facts. True, on the accession of Anna Ivanovna, an attempt to limit the authority of the sovereign was opposed by the masses, but the terrible record of the intervening years has left its traces even on the Russian peasantry, and it may fairly be questioned whether a similar attempt to-day would be unsuccessful.

The ambitious attempts of Russia to enlarge her boundaries have been on the

* "Slav or Saxon." By Wm. D. Foulke, A.M. Questions of the Day Series. No. XLIII. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

increase since the days when Catherine the Second planned to divide the Turkish Empire, and her recent policy toward Bulgaria shows her insatiate greed of power.

In his closing chapters the author gives an interesting résumé of Russian history, a page thickly blotted with acts of injustice and cruelty; an account of the reforms of Alexander II., and of the present despotic system. He echoes the sentiment of the reader at this point, when he says: "One would think that the more intelligent people of Russia would abandon a country thus infected; but even this poor privilege is denied them; they cannot lawfully leave the empire, nor even their own town, without the consent of their government. Every Russian found without a passport is an outlaw, to be hunted down by the authorities."

The outcome of the struggle between the Slav and the Saxon depends, according to our author, on two things. First, the scope and strength of disintegrating forces in the British Empire, and second, on social and political changes in Russia which may possibly remove aggressive motives.

The whole question appears to Mr. Foulke less remote from American interest than it seems. Russia now desires our moral support, and asks that her political fugitives be surrendered. Some claim for our friendly consideration is found in the friendly attitude of the late Czar to our country during the Civil War.

To combat the false sentiment which would lead us to an act of foul injustice this work has been written, and the author's aim is laudably accomplished.

V.

PATRICK HENRY.

AMERICA is indebted to Prof. Moses Coit Tyler for an excellent contribution to the American Statesmen Series, in the form of a life of Patrick Henry,* the first and only one founded on original investigation since that of Wirt, in 1817. Since this date, a mass of official documents, private correspondence, diaries, and personal records of various kinds, all relating to the times of Henry, have been published, and other unpublished material has become available.

The personal element enters largely into this life, and adds greatly to the reader's interest. Instead of a stately figure-head calmly sailing through the troubled sea of national affairs, as portrayed by the ordinary biographer, we gain a good idea of the man, first as the dreaming, frolicsome boy, "with a mortal enmity to books, supplemented by a passionate regard for fishing-rods and shot-guns; . . . a roamer in woods, a loiterer on river banks, having more tastes and aspirations in common with frontiersmen than with the toilers of civilized life; . . . making small and reluctant progress into the mysteries of reading, writing, and arithmetic." Again, one year after failing in the business of a country store, "having attained the ripe age of eighteen, and being then entirely out of employment, and equally out of money, Patrick rounded out his embarrassments, and gave symmetry to them, as it were, by getting married . . . to a young woman quite as impecunious as himself." Later on, a trio of illustrious horsemen ride slowly into Philadelphia on horseback to attend the First Continental Congress. Besides George Washington and Edmund Pendleton, there is a man looking like a half Quaker in his suit of parson's gray, "in religious matters a saint, but the very devil in politics; a son of thunder," destined hereafter to shake the Senate; or, "traveling homeward along the dusty highway, at once the

* "Patrick Henry." By Moses Coit Tyler. American Statesmen Series. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.